

# THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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## STATE POLITICS.

SENATOR DRYDEN'S OPPONENTS ADMIT HIS ELECTION PROBABLE.

Essex County Democratic Assemblymen Sent Party Houses to a Back Seat—Many Claimants for Essex Franchise—The Freshford Situation.

The State Legislature will soon convene. Certain newspapers that have all along been loudly declaring that Senator Dryden would not be elected again are beginning to modify their assertions and now say it is probable that Senator Dryden may not be elected.

Anti-Drydenites claim that there are at least eight Assemblymen and Senators who are not prepared to go into caucus unless he withdraws, and the number would be increased if all the eight would make more positive declarations. He needs forty-nine votes and there are only forty-four Republican members. The great trouble is the selection of a Republican candidate against him. The man who could win most easily now would be Justice Mahlon Pitney of Morris county. All he needs is the vote of the delegation of that county.

If a small minority is able to rule a large majority Senator Dryden might not be elected United States Senator, but it is not the law of politics that the majority should yield to the minority. Senator Dryden will undoubtedly be the chosen nominee, and that will mean election.

When the recalled Assembly caucus of the Democrats met at the Continental Hotel in Newark and repudiating former action named Assemblyman Lettbridge of Essex county for Speaker, the Democratic houses—Smith, Davis, Gourley and Nugent—took a back seat. They had agreed that they would not have to do so, in any case, and the Essex men were satisfied to beat a Hudson man, although Lettbridge is known as a fervent anti-Dryden representative. Now the houses are talking harmony and even Bod Davis is said to be willing to cross the Passaic. However, their harmony will not affect the legislative situation, which is harmonious without them.

The Democrats in the county are more hopeful than they were, since the Democratic Freshforders met and elected the county officials selected in caucus. The sixteen Democrats who met, without the aid of any Republicans, are confident that Reuben Odell (Republican) will not be declared the legally elected Freshford from the new sixteenth ward, Newark, by the Supreme Court, and that their action will stand. But they are content whatever happens. They have at least carried out their caucus program, which was more than some of them expected. If the court's decision is against them, the party, at least, will not be divided.

The Essex Assemblymen-elect held a caucus in Newark Wednesday night to settle upon the distribution of the patronage that falls to the Essex county men in making up the clerical force of the Assembly.

Although nothing was done formally, there was a good deal of discussion of the candidates from whom the clerk of the House, second assistant clerk and assistant supervisor of bills may be chosen. Frank H. Halliday, who was secretary to Joshua Brierly during the latter's recent campaign as an independent candidate for the majority nomination, and J. Randolph Woodruff seem to be the chief aspirants for the clerkship.

The name of Peter F. Cunningham was prominently mentioned for the post of second assistant clerk, while Robert A. Haggerty had his supporters for assistant supervisor of bills. Samuel J. MacDonald was also talked of for one of the clerical positions.

For the four doorkeepers and the three pages, whose appointment the Essex delegation have at their disposal, there are applicants galore. That is where the "rub" comes. There are only seven positions for distribution among eleven members of the contingent. It was decided to wait awhile to see if arrangements could not be made to allow each man to have the appointment of one man instead of having seven positions for eleven men.

The members then had a heart-to-heart talk with Assemblyman-elect Lettbridge, the recent choice of the Democratic members of the next Legislature for Speaker. He told them that he was considering the man he was going to name as his private secretary, but as yet had arrived at no decision. He intimated that he might make the announcement at the next conference of the Essex delegation. He outlined a policy of conservatism to guide the members in their legislative deliberations.

## Needless Fire Alarm.

The fire department was called out Wednesday night about 9 o'clock for an alarm from box No. 39. The alarm was a needless one. Some grass burning on a field south of Watessing avenue occasioned some one to send in an alarm.

## Borough Council.

At a meeting of the Glen Ridge Borough Council Thursday night an ordinance was passed prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons or discharging firearms of any description within the borough limits. A penalty of \$5 is attached for violation of the ordinance.

An ordinance providing for a fine of \$5 in the event of citizens failing to clean the snow and ice from the sidewalks and gutters in front of their property within six hours after a storm ceases, will be enforced to the letter. Where the ordinance is not obeyed Chief Brown will have it done and the cost will be charged to the owner, agent or tenant. The cost will become a lien on the property unless paid.

Councilman George C. White rendered a report of the income and expenses of the park property owned by the borough from 1902 to 1906. It showed that the sum of \$2,459.86 had been collected for rents, etc., while only \$634 had been expended, leaving a balance of \$1,825.46.

Wm. G. Flak, owner of the Robert S. Budd property in Ridgewood avenue, made application for the right to open a new street to be called Lindwood court and which will extend from Ridgewood avenue to Sherman street, half way between Belleville avenue and Wildwood terrace. A map was filed showing the width of the proposed new street to be fifty feet and the length 500 feet. The owner will lay sewer, water pipes and stone sidewalks, and the street will be macadamized. The matter was referred to the proper committees. It was the last meeting of the year.

## May Bring Trolley Line.

The sale of the Eli property in Prospect street marks the beginning of the development of a section which has heretofore been nothing but farm land. One of the most important results of the improvements to be made by the Skillinger firm will probably be a demand for a trolley on Springfield avenue or North Clinton street. Although the section is comparatively near the business section of Newark, the only available trolley at present is the Orange crescent line. The residents of the neighborhood therefore have to go to Orange or this town before reaching Newark.

## Will Honor Vice-Chancellor.

Arrangements have been made by many prominent members of the legal profession from various parts of the State to Vice-Chancellor Pinney of Morristown a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York on January 19, in honor of his eightieth birthday. It is also likely that the dinner will assume the nature of a farewell to the venerable magistrate in his official capacity, as he has made it known of his intention to resign. He is now serving his third term as Vice-Chancellor, which would not expire until 1913.

## Cheap Franchise.

Despite the objection of Committee-men Brees the Belleville Board of Health Thursday night granted permission to the Glen Ridge Cemetery Association to use the property owned by it in Jerolomus street, Belleville, for burial purposes. There were no conditions or concessions asked for in the resolution that was passed, but afterward, when the Township Committee met, an agreement between the association and the township whereby the association agreed to install and maintain two electric lights at the end of five years and another at the end of ten years was ratified. It met with the same objections from Committee-man Brees.

## Mountainide Hospital.

Contributors to Mountainide Hospital for December: Mrs. S. A. Andrews, Mrs. J. Brancroft, Miss Sarah Brancroft, Halsey M. Barrett, Mrs. Halsey M. Barrett, Miss Bohr, Mrs. M. Bruescher, Mrs. Henry Crane, Mrs. E. W. Chittling, Rev. George L. Curtis, Mrs. Forroff, Mrs. Hett, Mrs. W. H. Kingland, Mrs. J. B. Kent, Mrs. J. P. Jones, mite box at Mrs. Combs', mite box at Mrs. Van Gleason's, Mrs. H. Parkhill, Mrs. Schaefer, Mrs. Charles L. Taylor, Mrs. Terhune, Mrs. Anne Thomas, Miss Laura P. Ward, Mrs. Edwin A. White, Mrs. Seibert.

## Class Reunions.

The class of 1906 of the Bloomfield High School held a reunion Wednesday evening at the residence of Miss Gladys Smith in Nutley. The evening was much enjoyed, as many of the class had not met since their graduation since last June. Every one was interested in hearing of the daily life as led by such members of the class as are now students at Cornell and Stevens, at Trenton Training School, and at Pratt's Institute. Games were enjoyed and refreshments indulged in. Before the return trip in the stage the Bloomfield High School yell, followed by three "O's", was enthusiastically given. Miss Jones, vice-president of the class, Miss Davidson and Mr. Stone were unable to be present, and were missed by their classmates.

## MONEY MAKING SCHEME.

Newark Pawnbroker Attends Tax Sales and Purchases all the Best Offerings—Taxpayers Must Pay Him Twelve Per Cent on His Investment to Free Their Property—Some Experience of Taxpayers who were Caught.

The tax sales of properties for unpaid taxes, which occurs annually in the offices of tax collectors in the municipalities of this State, has at last been hit upon as a scheme for making money. Heretofore these sales have attracted little attention; the town, as a rule, bought in the property and the proceedings are charged to the property owner when he settles up for back taxes. In the future the circumstances are likely to be different.

At the tax sale in Orange on Wednesday Charles Bierman of Newark bought up all the improved property in the first and second districts, which includes the land south of Main street, upon which the owners had failed to pay their taxes for the past year. The sale of the property was consummated Thursday morning at an adjournment, when Mr. Bierman called to offer the money for the back taxes. It is scarcely likely that the property owners will realize that they will lose their homes, and in all likelihood Mr. Bierman will take over possession on payment of the tax and interest charges.

Mr. Bierman is a well-known money lender, and conducts an extensive pawnbroking business in Newark.

Some Newark taxpayers recently neglected to pay their taxes, and let the matter take the usual course of being advertised and sold. They assumed that the city would file the usual lien, but Mr. Bierman was in attendance at the sale and bought the properties. One indignant property owner wrote to a city paper as follows: "Please tell numbers of inquiring persons by what law or by what authority citizens of Newark are compelled to pay taxes to Bierman & Co. at the rate of 12 per cent. The city authorities can borrow all the money they want at 4 per cent. per year. It is an outrage and should be looked into, as there is no doubt some graft connected with it."

The question asked by the above note of taxpayer is not at all to the point. The city authorities acted in accordance with the statute law, and it is due to his own neglect that the delinquent taxpayer must pay 12 per cent. interest to Bierman & Co. in order to get his property freed of an incumbrance.

Another Newark taxpayer had the following experience with Bierman. This man is a large property owner and overlooked a small piece of property in settling up his tax bills. The city sold the property at tax sale and Charles Bierman was the purchaser. When the owner received word to call at the pawnbroking office of the latter at 10 Cedar street in regard to the matter he was surprised. Rather blaming himself for the oversight which had led to the complication, he promptly made out a check for the amount of the taxes and the 12 per cent. and took it to Bierman. He received the certificate of the tax sale and sent it to Comptroller Bacheller, thinking that the incident was then closed. To his further surprise, however, he received later a deed to the property from Bierman to himself, which was merely a release of the rights of Bierman in it. The document was entirely superfluous in the transaction, as the surrender of the certificate of sale by the city deprived Bierman of any right in the property.

For the deed, which was accompanied by an affidavit by Bierman covering the case and signed by James B. Nugent as a Master in Chancery, the property owner was compelled to pay an additional \$5. He did so rather than have any trouble, giving his check for the whole transaction for a little over \$10.

"It's an outrageous proceeding," he said in commenting on the matter. "Bierman gets 12 per cent. on the taxes and what amounts to 9 per cent. more on the taxes for the worthless, so-called 'deed.' I would suggest the transfer of the pawnbroker's three-balls sign from Cedar street to the City Hall."

## A Burglar Seize.

A report that burglars were at work in the handsome new residence of Samuel W. Flaks, Benson street, was received at police headquarters Tuesday night and Officer Shorter was dispatched to the place. Police Recorder George W. Odum resides next door to Mr. Flak and he was also informed that burglars were busy in the neighborhood. The Recorder and male members of his family armed themselves and proceeded to surround the Flak residence. Policemen Baylies, Hadley and Shorter entered the house, but failed to find any burglars. Mr. and Mrs. Flak were away at the time and the burglar alarm was given by their two boys, who thought they heard some one upstairs when they entered the house.

## TRACK ELEVATION.

An Argument Advanced Against Depressing Tracks—Will Have a Tendency to Check Suburban Travel—The Roseville Depression an Example of Wrecking Railway Travelling.

The average citizen, in delivering an off-hand opinion on the subject of elevated or depressed tracks, invariably declares in favor of depression. It is considered on all sides that grade crossings must go. The difference in opinion is in the method of disposing of the grade crossings. The majority opinion (excepting, of course, the commuters) appears to favor depressed tracks. The subject is now a live one in the Oranges, and will soon come up here for discussion. A resident of the Oranges, in a letter to a local paper, places the question before the people in a manner that should cause the advocates of depressed tracks to stop and consider before urging their favorite theory too strenuously.

In discussing the report of Samuel Whitney, a consulting engineer employed by the city of East Orange to investigate the railroad question, Mr. Robert Dun says:

"Mr. Whitney's report sets forth from an engineer's viewpoint the difficulties to be overcome in regard to sewerage, surface water, drainage, etc., as well as the extra expenses, but he does not say anything about the most objectionable feature in the project, which is that travellers on the railroad would have to travel through a cut about eighteen and a half feet deep, practically all the way from Newark to the South Orange line. A bridge overhead at every street crossing renders reading impossible. Those of us who travel through the Roseville cut know that it is hot in summer and damp in winter. To have cut continue to the South Orange line is painful to contemplate. The New York Central tracks were at one time depressed through Harlem, but were so objectionable that the road elevated them."

"If the great cities of Newark, Elizabeth, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, Dover, Wilmington and so on to Washington allow the Pennsylvania Railroad to elevate its tracks, it seems as if there were not sufficient reason for one compelling the Lackawanna road to depress its tracks through East Orange and Orange."

"It is hardly probable that the State Legislature would compel the road to go to such expense. If done, the people of Orange and East Orange would probably patronize largely the Erie Railroad, where they would at least get light and air. Depressing the tracks would doubtless injure Orange property, as well as that of Summit, Morristown, Bernardsville, etc., as the cut would be so disagreeable that people would rather change residence than go through it."

"There is nothing really objectionable in an elevated structure. In England and on the Continent one sees miles of railroad raised on stone abutments, the sides of which are soon overgrown with vines."

"It is generally understood that the Lackawanna people have been ready for the past two years to come to some arrangement with the authorities of Orange and East Orange to elevate the tracks, giving us three tracks from Newark to South Orange, thereby relieving the congestion, which is rapidly growing worse." By elevating the Lackawanna tracks through the cities of Orange and East Orange the sewerage and surface drainage would not be disturbed; there would be no danger of snow blockades or of floods; the comfort of passengers would not be interfered with, and the running of trains would not be affected. If the track elevation were completed it would add very materially to the value of property throughout the Oranges. This is a case certainly in which time is money."

## Glen Ridge Post Office.

Mayor Arthur J. Lockwood and the members of the Glen Ridge Council have been conferring with the Lackawanna Railroad officials relative to improvements at the railroad station to make room for the separation of the railroad and ticket and postal offices. While no decision has been arrived at, it is believed that a definite plan will be submitted to the Council at its next meeting by the company. Meantime another conference will be held. One of the plans suggested is the building of an extension on the east side of the station, to be used for the ticket office and to partition off the west end of the present waiting room for the post office.

## Dogs Kill Chickens.

A trio of dogs recently combined in a chicken killing crusade and played havoc in Lake street hameries. The dogs must have killed some chickens on Orange street as a part of that street is used as a fence one and scattered the contents of a feather bed on the highway. Samuel Shawcross, the electric light superintendent, who lives at No. 24 Lake street, was one of the heaviest losers from the ravages of the dogs. Mr. Shawcross lost about twenty-five chickens.

## Mrs. Folson's Musicals.

A private musicale was given by Mrs. Charles D. Folson of Brookfield road, Upper Montclair, Wednesday afternoon to about fifty of her friends. She presented Shepherd Garrison, tenor, of this town, and Wilbur Follett Unger, pianist of Montclair. The affair was interesting to the guests throughout and both young participants were very generously approved.

Mr. Garrison, who has a lyric voice of pleasing timbre which he knows how to use effectively, pleased so well that he was forced to repeat three of his songs—repetitions being particularly desired by the guests—and add an extra. His selections were all wisely familiar and of a character to suit the cultivated tastes of the guests. He began with Giordani's old "Caro Mio Ben," and those who heard De Gorgonzola give it here last spring will recall how effectively it can be done. He followed it with a serenade by Neldlinger and a lively song of two marionettes who loved each other, but the man proved feckle when he rose to the nobility, composer unknown. These two he repeated. With Nevins' "Little Boy Blue," which contains a high D flat to conquer, he did so well that he added an encore called "Forgotten," written for Eugene Cowles, the basso of the erstwhile Bostonians. Another Nevins song the favorite "Rosary," won a repetition. His other songs were such familiar things as the air "Ojas Anlman," from Rossini's "Stabat Mater," the aria "Quando ah te Lieti," from Gounod's "Faust," Bartlett's "A Dream," a serenade by Schubert, "Where Blossoms Grow," Sans Souci, and Greene's "Sing Me to Sleep."

## Struck By Trolley Car.

Montgomery Holt (colored) a former resident of this town and now residing in Orange, came here with his family Tuesday to spend Christmas with friends. In the evening the Holt family started for home and were waiting at the corner of Beach and Broad streets for a car to Orange. Mr. Holt held an infant child in his arms. He stood too close to the track and was struck in the head by the car and hurled several feet away. The injured man and the child were carried to the residence of Thomas H. Decker, near by, and Dr. Shaul was summoned and attended the injuries of the man and child. It was at first thought that Holt's injuries were of a fatal character and Chief of Police Collins placed the conductor and motorman of the car under arrest. After having his wounds dressed he was able to proceed homeward.

## Rawson Camp.

The marriage of Miss Frances Camp, daughter of Mrs. Susan Camp of Newark, and George Rawson, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. George B. Rawson of Essex avenue, Glen Ridge, took place on Monday evening at the parsonage of the Park M. E. Church in this town. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Jesse L. Hurlbut.

The bride was gowned in white organza and carried lilies of the valley. Miss Mary Gasman of Newark acted as bridesmaid. She wore white silk and carried white roses. Roy Rawson, the brother of the bridegroom, was best man. A wedding supper followed at the home of the bridegroom's parents, after which the couple left on a short wedding tour. They will reside in Glen Ridge.

## Shubert Theatre.

Henry E. Dixey, one of the, if not the very best comedians in America, supported by a company of splendid actors and actresses and playing in a comedy which has been accorded a run of 204 nights in New York city, and successful engagements in several of the larger cities of the country, comes to the Shubert Theatre, Newark, week commencing Monday, December 31. Special matinee Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Dixey's sketch is "The Man in the Box," dramatized by Grace L. Furness from Harold MacGrath's celebrated novel of that title and produced under the management of Walter N. Lawrence, a manager whose name has grown to be synonymous with rich, tasteful and above all careful and accurate stage productions; also invariably furnishing with his companies on tour exactly as fine a company and in almost every instance the same identical cast which are seen during the New York engagements of his plays. Regular matinees Wednesday and Saturday.

## Paper Lasted for Two Issues.

The *Childwell Chronicle*, a weekly journal, which made its appearance one week ago Saturday, has been issued for the last time. The paper, an eight-page one, promised to be a success, but the editor-in-chief and backer was suddenly called to a more lucrative place, and his partner decided not to continue publication. So with the issue last Saturday publication was suspended.

Tuesday, January 2, is the date of the annual meeting of the Bloomfield National Bank.

## SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.

CORRESPONDENT CRITICISES DELAY IN MAKING THEM.

Who Pays the Interest Accumulation—Why Myrtle Avenue Property Owners Should Protest—Council Should Investigate Course of Inaction.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR—In the CITIZEN of the 22d inst. reference was made to a heavy assessment upon Myrtle avenue property owners for the grading of that street. Having an interest in property in the locality effected by the Myrtle avenue improvement and in the development of that locality, I was somewhat surprised at the statements in the newspaper article. In the first place the enormity of the assessment is astonishing, and it is singular that it was not pointed out by town officials that the undertaking was going to be a costly one. In the second place the work has long been completed and the town has advanced the money to pay the claims of the contractor, and there is an interest accumulation on the advancement.

It does not appear that the interest accumulation was at all necessary and dilatory action on somebody's part is responsible for it. If this interest sum is charged against the property owners assessed for the improvement they ought to protest against paying it. If it is charged upon the town at large that is equally wrong. The statute requires prompt action by the Board of Assessors in matters where special assessment for improvements are occasioned. Prompt action is necessary to avoid an interest accumulation. In the case of Myrtle avenue there is good ground for assuming that the statutes have not been complied with, and until proof to the contrary is shown, the responsibility for the delay must be charged up to the Board of Assessors.

There is considerable delay in all the special assessments levied in this town, and the town or the property owners assessed pay a large amount of unnecessary interest on account of the delay. It is time that such an evil was eliminated from the conducting of official business. If the fault is up to the Board of Assessors that body should be reprimanded by the Mayor, and urged to greater diligence in the performance of their duty. If the Board of Assessors is not at fault, some steps should be taken to fix the responsibility.

EAST PASSAIC AVENUE.

## Thieves in Glen Ridge.

Sneak thieves visited three houses in Glen Ridge Saturday night, during the absence of the families who were out on shopping tours. In each instance an entrance was effected by prying open a window with a jimmy. At the home of Clarence Biddulph in Hawthorne avenue they secured about \$50 worth of various little articles of silver. In the residence of George W. Miller in Wildwood terrace they took \$75 worth of goods such as silver-back toilet articles, powder boxes, a silver shoebox and a buttonhook. The latter two things were left at the home of William T. Tallafiero, 306 Ridgewood avenue, where they entered next. Here they got a new overcoat, a coat and vest, a revolver, sugar spoon and four teaspoons.

The thieves are supposed to be young men much addicted to the cigarette habit, as well as drinking of whiskey. Half-smoked cigarettes were found lying about on the buffets and bureaus.

## Smoke Fuzzled Fireman.

Chief of the Fire Department James Y. Nicoll was called to the residence of L. B. Harrison, Wednesday morning, to ascertain whether or not the house was on fire. The interior of the house was filled with smoke and two carpenters working there, and themselves volunteer firemen, deemed it prudent under the circumstances to send for the chief engineer. The chief, himself was puzzled at first to account for the dense smoke and searched around considerable time before he located it. Finally the cause was located in the cellar where a fire in a laundry stove had been started and the pipe from the stove led into a "blind" flue. The smoke having no way of escaping was forced back into the house.

## The Belle of Mayfair.

Thomas W. Kyle's exquisite production of Leslie Stuart's latest English musical play "The Belle of Mayfair" duplicated its London success at Day's Theatre, New York, where it is now comfortably installed with every indication of remaining at this popular play house until late in the season. In every respect a typical Day's Theatre musical play, "The Belle of Mayfair" with its ever shifting rows of pretty girls, its handsome and costly costumes, the fitting, sticky music, handsome stage settings and its practically all star cast has quite caught the town and theatre parties made up principally of members of the smart set are being booked a month and six weeks in advance.